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From: Skahen, Mary (EHS) <mary.skahen@massmail.state.ma.us>
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 3:56 PM
To: Hanchett, James (DPH)
Subject: An Announcement from Secretary Bigby

Colleagues:

I am pleased to announce Dr. Lauren Smith will lead the Department of Public Health in her new role as interim commissioner beginning today.

Many of you already are familiar with Dr. Smith through her leadership as medical director at DPH, where she has served since 2007.

Dr. Smith has spearheaded key priorities for Governor Patrick, including Mass in Motion, a successful program that combats obesity and promotes healthy living across the Commonwealth.

She has also led the way on efforts at DPH to promote school nutrition standards, prevent concussions in student athletes, and address health disparities for women and minorities.

As a pediatric hospitalist and researcher, Dr. Smith's clinical and academic work has focused on child health disparities and the impact of public policy on child well-being. Prior to joining DPH, she served as the medical director of Inpatient Pediatrics and the Medical-Legal Partnership at Boston Medical Center.

Dr. Smith starts her role as interim commissioner at a critical time, and I know she will exercise her leadership and passion for public health to guide the department forward.

I also want to again thank outgoing Commissioner John Auerbach for his service to the Patrick-Murray Administration, and to the people of Massachusetts. John starts his new position as director of the Urban Health Research Institute at Northeastern University November 1, and I hope you will join me in wishing him well.

Thank you,

JudyAnn Bigby, M.D.

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